

HOME, ITS PROBLEMS AND INTERESTS



BROWN PONGEE.

Certain rather vivid browns have come to the front and will be worn throughout the season, although the color is essentially a warm one, not as a rule, becoming to faces flushed, as faces are likely to be during dog days. The nut browns and more particularly the wood browns, which are comparatively light and cool, have enjoyed a tremendous vogue in Paris, but for some reason or other these shades have not been taken up here, and now for the first time they are receiving serious attention from the patrons of the high class importers and dressmakers.

A gown of brown pongee, fashioned after this model is charming. Following the popular trend, the skirt is circular in cut and trimmed at bottom with three deep applied tucks. The bodice has a round yoke and front piece of all-over heavy Russian lace, with a double collar running from shoulder seams to top of deep girdle. Wide tucks are used on the short puffed sleeves and fancy buttons decorate sleeves and bodice.

THE ART OF MAKING
POULTICES PROPERLY

Something Every Housekeeper Should Know In Case of Emergency.

To make a poultice properly and with expedition is an art. We can not go to the drugstore when the physician prescribes poulticing and have the prescription made up. It is a remedy that must be made on the spot, and applied immediately, hence the advantage of being able to manipulate it successfully.

The poultices in common use are linseed, bran, bread, mustard, and oatmeal, but the medical man will say in each case what is the proper kind of poultice to use.

How to Apply the Poultice.

Their purpose is to keep the part moist and warm, and whenever they fail to do that they are useless. To do so they must be made very hot, of proper consistency, applied as hot as can be borne and changed frequently.

When changing, the new poultice ought to be at the bedside before the old one is removed. The operation must be performed quickly, and the skin dried before the fresh poultice is put on.

Covering a poultice with several folds of flannel or oiled silk helps to keep it longer warm. In every case it must be fixed to the part by means of bandages, otherwise it will be falling every moment, and much harm may be done. When a bran poultice has to be used it is usually a large one. Being large it retains the heat much longer, and is a very efficacious kind.

To Make a Bran Poultice.

Put the bran in a large warm basin and pour over enough boiling water to moisten it. Stir it well, and put it in a large piece of flannel. Fix it up so that the bran does not move and apply as hot as can be borne.

Another method is to put some boiling water in a hot basin. Place the quantity of bran required on the top of the boiling water, and when the heat has penetrated, stir it gently in. Pour off the superabundant water and apply the poultice at once.

To make a linseed poultice have ready on a hot surface a piece of old thin linen or muslin three or four inches larger each way than you mean the poultice to be. Warm a basin and have the kettle boiling rapidly.

For a Linseed Poultice.

Use crushed linseed in preference to linseed meal. The meal contains a large proportion of oil. Place sufficient linseed in the basin and pour the boiling water over it, stirring it rapidly with a table knife till it is perfectly smooth, and does not adhere to the basin.

Spread immediately on the linen to about an inch or so of the edge, and about half an inch thick. Turn over the edges of the linen, running along with the finger to smooth them properly. Roll up with the linseed inside and apply.

If changing into the bandage, roll toward the skin the old poultice, drying the skin as you do, and with the utmost expedition unroll the warm poultice over the part. Cover with flannel and keep in place by the bandages.

Another way is to put the linseed into the oven to heat for a quarter of an hour and scald the basin in which it is to be mixed with boiling water. Next pour in as much boiling water as is needed according to the size of the poultice required, then, stirring with a knife all the time. Shake in the hot meal until the poultice is sufficiently thick. In some cases it is better to put the poultice upon the skin, when to prevent it sticking it may be slightly oiled. A paper cut rather larger than the poultice will then serve for spreading it on.

Where it is preferred that it should not touch the skin, an old, thin handkerchief answers well for a wrapper, the surplus turned over at the back of the poultice. In either case it should be covered with cotton, wool, and oiled silk to retain the heat as long as possible.

A Wrapper to Keep it From the Skin.

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An oatmeal poultice must be boiled. Have enough water in a saucepan and add oatmeal slowly, stirring all the time to prevent it becoming lumpy. Let it boil for five minutes, then pour it on a piece of old flannel the size required and the proper thickness for the part on which it is to be used. The oatmeal is usually sewed into the flannel, as if it gets near the skin, and it is difficult to remove. It must be changed and fixed on by bandages the same as the linseed poultices.

The Simplest of All, a Bread Poultice.

Bread poultice is very mild indeed, and is applied to any part where the evil is trifling, and only where a small poultice can be administered.

Into a basin put some crumbled pieces of bread and pour over it boiling water or milk to saturate it. Beat it to a soft pulp and spread on a piece of linen. Apply to the part and fix it on so that it may not move.

Another recipe is this: Cut a slice of bread, the size required, out of a stale loaf, put it into a warmed basin and pour upon it boiling water. Leave it for a few minutes with a plate over it to soak. Then drain off all the water, spread the poultice on a piece of soft linen, and apply it as hot as it can be borne.

It is much neater and generally as efficacious to wrap up the poultice in fine muslin, so that the bread does not adhere to the skin, and the whole may be removed without any mess.

For a bread and water poultice, first scald out a basin, then having put in some boiling water, throw in coarsely crumbled bread and cover it with a plate. When the bread has soaked up as much water as it will imbibe, drain off the remaining water and there will be left a light pulp.

Spread this a third of an inch thick on folded linen and apply it when the temperature of a warm bath. To preserve it moist, occasionally drop warm water on it.

The Mustard Poultice.

A mustard poultice is a most useful application and can be made in a variety of ways. The simplest and cleanest for ordinary purposes is the following:

Take a piece of soft flannel, dip it in boiling water, wring it out immediately and sprinkle one side of it with fresh flour of mustard. The flannel should, while being sprinkled, be laid upon a hot plate, that no warmth may be lost.

Another way of making a mustard poultice is by spreading a large tablespoonful of mustard, made in the ordinary way, as if for table, on a piece of soft linen and warming it before the fire when it is to be applied. A third and better plan, if warmth be needed, is to make a common bread poultice and stir into it one tablespoonful of mustard, either fresh or mixed. It is frequently desirable, when poultices are made on either of the last two plans, to place a piece of fine muslin or gauze between the poultice and the skin.

When a mustard poultice is wanted

CONCERNING CARE
OF THE BEDROOM

When buying an enamel bed look well to the brass fittings to see if they are firmly set and carefully finished, for it is here that the bed first shows signs of wear. Such trimmings usually are finished now so that they do not tarnish, but they are not always put on so that they will not get loose, and give the bed a generally dilapidated look.

Enameling should be done over often enough so this part of the bed will not get blue and shabby looking. All enameled furniture should be gone over every few weeks with a soapy rag.

There is no other article which so well repays care and in which the cost of replacing and repairing makes it so well worth while for the housekeeper to use eternal vigilance as the mattress. Never leave them uncovered, and have them swept monthly with a whisk broom, turning up the tufts and brushing them free from dust. They should be thoroughly whipped at least three or four times a year, and once during the middle of winter and once in the heat of summer should be left out during the whole day for a good chilling and sunning. Pillows and bolsters should have the same treatment much more frequently and should have slip covers of muslin, the same as mattresses. The frequent handling of pillows exposes them to soil, and they are unpleasant to fastidious persons if faded and not perfectly clean.

Care of Plants.

The majority of the house plants will begin active growth this month and should receive daily attention.

Apply fertilizers if the soil seems to be pretty well worn out, and it will be if the plants have been kept growing and furnishing blossoms.

Finely ground bone meal is an excellent flower food. A teaspoonful worked into the soil in a six-inch pot will be about right.

Plants which have outgrown their dishes may often be kept green and healthy in their cramped quarters by the judicious use of plant foods.

Pay close attention to watering. A healthy plant which is putting forth new leaves and buds will make use of a considerable amount of moisture, and it should not be allowed to suffer in this respect.

Perhaps there is nothing more harmful than to give a plant which is at a standstill a greater supply of water than it can assimilate. It debilitates the plant and gives the soil a chance to sour.

When the soil in a pot is gray and crumbly on top a plant is in need of water and a thorough application should be made.

As long as the soil appears moist the plant is not suffering for water, and no more should be given until it dries out again.

To be sure that the ball of roots is soaked through, set each plant in a dish of warm water and let it remain there until the soil is muddy on top. In this way the plant receives a thorough watering.

It is harmful to a plant to give it just enough water to keep the surface soil moist. It is the roots down in the pot that need the water, and enough should be given to reach them. Hanging baskets should be examined every day to see that they are not suffering for moisture. They are in a warmer air than the other plants, and consequently the soil dries out quicker. They should be allowed to become thoroughly dry, else the plants may become injured.

The Home Gardener.

Where a brilliant mass of color is desired, especially if a dew growing plant is wanted, nothing surpasses the portulaca. Its moss-like stems being almost hidden by flowers of crimson, scarlet, pink, and white. Like the poppies, it is a self-seeding plant, and will usually come up year after year.

The annuals are too little used in our gardens. In common with our countrymen everywhere, we have people who are possessed of the notion that beauty is expensive, so we prefer to buy geraniums and coleus and other bedding plants for our gardens, at a far greater outlay and with less satisfactory results.

One of the brightest gardens last summer surrounded a modest little home. The total expenditure for seeds did not exceed 25 cents. But the value of that garden's color might have been estimated in thousands of dollars. The California poppy, with its brilliant flower in shades of yellow and orange, may be sown at any time in April. It is the most brilliant of yellow flowers, though the French marigold and the calendula are more valuable for cutting. Among the best of the annuals that may be planted now, no flower of blue color is better than the bachelor's button, or ragged daisy, or corn field poppy. As many names as a novel princess.

In a sunny yard, petunia and verbena and phlox and poppy are much happier than geraniums. So let us give the annuals a chance to brighten our town this summer. We will get increased variety, and color, and, think, we will get a big profit of pleasure and satisfaction.

There are many other annuals that are worthy of a place in the flower garden—summer phlox, gallardias, dianthus pinks, zinnias (so much improved of late that the grandmothers of the olden time would not recognize them), balsam—indeed, one may have a glory of color throughout the summer for a very small outlay, and, of course, every one can save the seed of every kind he grows for the next year's planting.

No Wide Brims.

Small hats are to be quite as much worn as large ones by Parisians, but there is a prospect of larger ones taking the lead later on. Abnormal width of brim will not be indulged in. Many of the largest hats are not wide in the brim, compared with those of recent popularity. A prodigious amount of trimming makes them seem larger than they are, and the method of adorning them up at the back gives them still greater prominence.

very strong it may be made with mustard and warm vinegar, or when not so strong, it may be made with mustard and water mixed, and applied on an old rag, and allowed to remain on from twenty minutes to half an hour.

Spread on a thin linen rag and apply. For tightness of the chest and difficulty of breathing many people have experienced great relief from mustard and water mixed, and applied on an old rag, and allowed to remain on from twenty minutes to half an hour.

Take two pieces of cotton wool and dust into them as much dry mustard as they will retain. Place them together and sew round the edges and cross and over. Cover with a piece of muslin, preferably old, as it will be softer, fixing well round the edges and sewing across and across to form squares. Roll up and wrap in a piece of paper and it will keep for any length of time.



THE SCHOOL GIRL'S SHIRT WAIST.

Tailored shirt waists are much affected this season by the growing school girl. Through extremely simple of make, they are none the less smart. In fact, it is just this very simplicity which gives them their smartness. Sleeves are either long or short, but that reaching a trifle below the elbow and finished with a turnback cuff is to be a very popular model this summer time. In the waist picture the fronts are tucked and stitched on the shoulder line to yoke depth, and there is a triple center box pleat, the fastening made invisible beneath this pleat. And in the back there is a double center box pleat which graduates in width to the waist line. The neck is finished with a shirt band, which is buttoned the stock of medium height, around which is worn a soft string tie.

New Things in Hats.

Some revivals of quaint hat styles have been made—some the very image of old-fashioned pokes, made of leg-horn or some other oldtime straw, and trimmed with a plume and a buckle—even with the strings, although those of today are of wide, soft ribbon, or chiffon, with which the poke used to be tied under the chins of oldtime beauties.

One of the hat styles which is attracting a great deal of attention has the top laid in folds. Before the hat is made on its wire frame it looks more like a waste-basket, or like the bathing hats with which plenty of people disgrace themselves every summer. But when the folds are drawn down, letting the folds arrange themselves, giving them only an occasional little poke here or there when the soft straw shows signs of crushing the wrong way.

A Dancing Frock.

A snow white chiffon dancing gown for a young girl has a full skirt, short puffed sleeves, and a full bodice. The plain white satin. Just above this hem are two bands of satin ribbon trimming, the ribbon being gathered up into Empire festoons and little boules, and further spaced out with rosettes and chiffon roses. A full bodice is drawn down under a white satin sash, with long ends floating away at the back, while the décolleté neck is finished with a little tucker of white net, threaded through with narrow black velvet ribbon and caught in the center with a single La France rose. The short puffed sleeves are finished round the arm with a wide band of satin ribbon, and the skirt is a model of exquisite simplicity.

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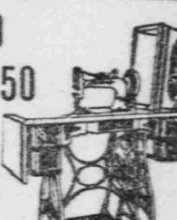
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